

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

### **I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

Applicant: Parowan City

Address: 5 South Main  
Parowan, Utah 84761

Project Number: SRF 151

Contact Person: Joe Melling, City Manager

### **ABSTRACT**

The City operates a community-wide wastewater collection and treatment facility that treats wastewater from Parowan City and the Town of Brian Head. In 2006 Parowan City built a new total containment lagoon wastewater treatment facility. The project provided sufficient capacity to provide sewer service to a growing population. Growth is occurring along 2200 North and 200 West along the south side of Interstate-15. The proposed project includes the installation of 24,000 feet of 12-inch and 10-inch wastewater collection piping. This project will eliminate two existing pump stations and the need for a pump station that has been approved but not installed. This project will also provide sewer service to an area that would otherwise need to utilize the Brian Head outfall line that has limited capacity.

The population of Parowan is approximately 2,580 and Brian Head has a population of approximately 225. Most of the wastewater flow from Brian Head is from tourism and second homes. The population is expected to increase by 2.2 percent per year to over 4,322 by the year 2028.

Total project costs are estimated to be \$1,000,000. A \$422,000 State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan and a \$578,000 contribution from the City will allow the sewer user fees be charged at the current rate of \$22 per month per equivalent residential user within Parowan City.

### **Comment Period**

No administrative action will be taken for at least (30) days after the release of the Finding of No Significant Impact and the Environmental Assessment Report. For more information regarding the preparation and content of these documents contact:

Shelly Andrews  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Water Quality  
P.O. Box 144870  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-4870

## **II. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT**

The project will provide Parowan and Brian Head with an effective wastewater collection system that will be economically feasible and will be located in a more suitable location to reduce the operation and maintenance of pump stations. Without the project, some residential areas will continue to use on-site septic systems since they are unable to connect to the existing facility.

## **III. PROJECT PLANNING AREA**

The planning area is located within the Cedar/Beaver Basin watershed. The surrounding land is used predominantly for farming alfalfa. Other principal plant communities in the area include bitter brush, sagebrush, irrigated pasture, meadow pasture and dry pasture. Animals found in the area include the cottontail rabbit, jackrabbit, raccoons, muskrats, Utah Prairie Dogs and various small rodents. There are abundant varieties of birds and reptiles in the area. Some upland game birds in the area include pheasant, sage grouse, mourning dove, chukar and quail. Several species of hawks and falcons are also native to the area.

At the present time, this project will serve existing developed areas as no new development is proposed in the service area. The area served by the proposed sewer line has sparse development to include primarily residential with some light commercial. There is potential for additional commercial development adjacent to I-15. The service area is currently zoned county residential, general commercial and industrial/manufacturing. The City of Parowan is currently providing culinary water and electrical service to the service area south of the interstate highway.

## **IV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

**Flood Plain:** The proposed pipeline crosses a major channel; however in the event of a flood, the water would be dispersed further up channel draining to the north and east. Parowan, in conjunction with Iron County is in the process of developing a flood map for the area.

**Wetlands:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined that, based on the information provided and a site inspection conducted on June 19, 2007, waters of the United States, including wetlands, will not be affected during construction or operation of the pipeline. A Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is not required.

**Prime and Important Farmland:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service evaluated the planning area and indicated that the soils that meet the definition of “Prime Farmland if Irrigated” and “Soils of Statewide Importance” are in the project area. However, the pipelines will be constructed in the right of way of existing roads. The proposed construction of the sewer pipelines will not impact important farmlands.

**Aquatic and Terrestrial Wildlife:** The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has determined that the Federally-listed threatened Utah prairie dog and the Burrowing Owl, a species of special concern, are known to occur near the proposed construction site. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service will issue an opinion letter following formal consultation that will outline the requirements for construction in critical habitat.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** Several threatened species were identified in Iron County including the California Condor, southwestern willow flycatcher, Mexican Spotted Owl and yellow-billed cuckoo. There are no roost trees that will be cut down as a result of this project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reviewed all data and information and determined that the project will have “no effect” on these species. The USFWS determined that the Utah prairie dog the project “is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the Utah prairie dog and is not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat as no critical habitat has been designated for this species. The Service reached the opinion based on the following:

1. The direct impacts from the project are temporary.
2. Construction within the active Utah prairie dog colony will occur in the active season (approximately June 1 – August 31) when UPD pups have emerged and are able to move away from project activities.
3. An approved biological monitor will be onsite during all construction work within the 3 prairie dog areas and will be restricted from the 30-foot wide Action Area.

Parowan City is responsible for contractor/subcontractor compliance with the Terms and Conditions and Reporting Requirements described in the Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS.

**Cultural Resources:** The Utah State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the cultural resources files for the planning area and determined that there will be “no effect” to historical artifacts as a result of the project.

**Air Quality:** The Division of Air Quality indicated that no long-term impacts to air quality would be expected due to the proposed project. R307-205, Fugitive Emissions and Fugitive Dust, of the Utah Air Conservation Rules apply to the project.

## **V. ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

**The Preferred Alternative:** Parowan City proposes to install 24,000 feet of 12 and 10 inch sewer pipe between the intersection 2200 North & 2200 West in Iron County, north along 2200 West to the south side of Interstate 15. On the south side of I-15, sewer lines will be extended east along 200 and 600 South to approximately 100 West in Parowan to tie in manholes. This project will eliminate two existing pump stations and eliminate the need for a pump station that has been approved but not installed.

**No action alternative:** If the pipeline is not constructed it would require the continuing use of septic systems and several pump stations that would increase the operation and maintenance costs of the collection system. Brian Head would eventually need to upsize its outfall line to accommodate population growth in the area.

## **VI. MEANS TO MITIGATE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### **Direct and indirect impacts**

Population growth and land use changes can be an indirect impact from the expansion of a wastewater collection system within a community, making previously undeveloped areas available to be improved by providing increased capacity. The intention of the project is to supply adequate wastewater collection for the residents of Parowan and Brian Head and avoid further ground water degradation from septic systems.

Future development in the area could result in the City extending services such as roads, schools, fire protection, police and other infrastructure. Assess to a sewer system will provide for a more environmentally sound approach to future development as a means of protecting the ground water aquifer and public health.

### **Unavoidable Adverse Environmental Impacts**

Although there are no significant environmental impacts anticipated from this project, several special conditions will be imposed as a condition of project funding through the Utah State Revolving Fund loan program. These conditions will reduce impacts associated with the project:

1. Plans and specifications will contain specific items to control dust, noise, erosion and sedimentation.
2. If any archaeological artifacts are unearthed during the construction, work will be immediately stopped as dictated by contract specifications. The City will promptly notify the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Utah Division of Water Quality. These agencies will make a timely determination of steps necessary to mitigate adverse environmental impacts of the artifacts.
3. All residents and businesses whose properties are located within 300 feet of a wastewater collection system main must connect to the system.
4. Parowan City is responsible to comply with all the Terms and Conditions issued by the USFWS for the preservation of the Utah prairie dog.

## **VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Several public meetings were held to determine the course of action that Parowan and Brian Head should take to provide an adequate wastewater collection system for its residents.

10/25/07 – A public meeting was held to discuss the proposed sewer outfall lines. There were no public comments and the Parowan City Council voted to approve the construction of the new lines.

7/10/03 – A final public meeting was held to update the public on the new proposed treatment facility to be constructed near the Little Salt Lake west of Parowan. There were public comments concerning mechanical treatment and why it was not chosen as the preferred alternative. Concerns were expressed about odors and property values. There was discussion about refurbishing the existing lagoons and why that was not chosen as the preferred alternative. Based on the public meeting minutes all public comments appeared to be adequately addressed.

3/28/02 – Moving the wastewater treatment facility was discussed and the new location was disclosed. Reasons for moving the facility were discussed. Cooperation between Parowan and Brian Head was explained. No significant public comments were recorded.

### **VIII. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS**

The following document was used in preparation of the Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment Report:

Parowan City 2200 West Outfall Line, March 13, 2008, Alpha Engineering Company, St. George, Utah.

### **IX. AGENCIES CONSULTED**

The following agencies were consulted during the facility planning process:

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2. Natural Resource Conservation Service
3. Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
4. Utah Division of State History
5. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
6. Utah Division of Air Quality
7. Piute Indian Tribe of Utah
9. Ute Indian Tribe